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ARCA #3 PT

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE

WASHINGTON

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3 MAR 1978

Dear Mr. Tropp:

Thank you for your inquiry of January 20 concerning the custody of the child of Mr. and Mrs. Tim Stoen.

I asked that the issue you described in your letter be investigated and that a report be made to me. I have been advised that the U.S. Embassy in Georgetown, at the request of Timothy Stoen's parents, expressed its interest in this case to Guyanese authorities solely to explain our hope that the custody dispute be adjudicated fairly and impartially. The Embassy has not taken sides in what is essentially a civil dispute between two groups of Americans, and the Embassy has exerted no pressure on the Guyanese Government to rule on this question in favor of one side or another.

The inquiries made by the American Embassy on behalf of the child's parents were normal protective services which any American citizen abroad can expect to receive from his government. The inquiries were not in any way directed to the substance of the case which is presently before the courts.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY _____ DATE _____
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ EXCEPTION(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS (.)
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☐
RELEASE DENIED☐
EXCEPTIONS

Mr. Richard D. Tropp,
P. O. Box 15157,
San Francisco, California 94115.

I trust this information will help you to understand more fully the role that the U.S. Embassy has played in this case. If you have any further questions, please feel free to call Ms. Elizabeth Powers in the State Department's Office of Special Consular Services on 632-9461.

Sincerely,

Terence A. Todman
Bureau of Inter-American Affairs

bcc: CA/SCS - Ms. Powers, Rm. 1813

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ARA:SAShelton

(1) ARA #3 PT

I asked that the problem you described in your letter be investigated and that a report be made to me. I have learned that the U.S. Embassy in Lisbon has expressed its interest in the case to Spanish authorities and that it is hoped that the latter will soon release [illegible] and the other three. In addition, the Embassy has been [illegible] Lisbon [illegible] Spanish authorities [illegible] Embassy has not taken [illegible]

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[illegible]

[illegible] to [illegible] a [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
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